My dear Maria — Rome April 10th 1824

You have a little mistaken about my picture — it was to wait at Aurora for a King's Messenger — there was not room for me I must take what me it may be, or when — you see I am obliged to take my chance — that it will come shortly I have no doubt — meanwhile I am not sorry it will not be in the exhibition (but this is between ourselves) for the British Gallery will be much better — So tell my dear Father not to have any more concern about it — when it arrives send it immediately to the R.A. for the inspection of the Council and all will be right — I am so sorry that you should have had this trouble about it — it quite grieves me for my Father — you did not well perceive my letter or you would have seen there was no certainty about its time of arrival — it may not have come yet — did I not tell you that I was waiting for a Messenger? I have no idea its arrival must be uncertain

And you give me great pain about my return — O! if you did know, how I long to sit down with you once more — it seems as tho' I have never sat down since I left you — nor can I again with real content, until I am sitting once more by my dear Father fireside — that my interest must shape all my movements — think I am a poor fellow seeking for fame & fortune — and they will not come without much seeking — yet next year — perhaps in July or August — Please God I will return to you — meanwhile comfort yourselves that I have Heaven's greatest blessing — real good health — [illegible] and I am laying such a foundation for my future success that I cannot fail — [illegible] so you see I am not my own master — I reckon it will take me 4 Months to make my journey in to England — How the idea delights me — would it were tomorrow

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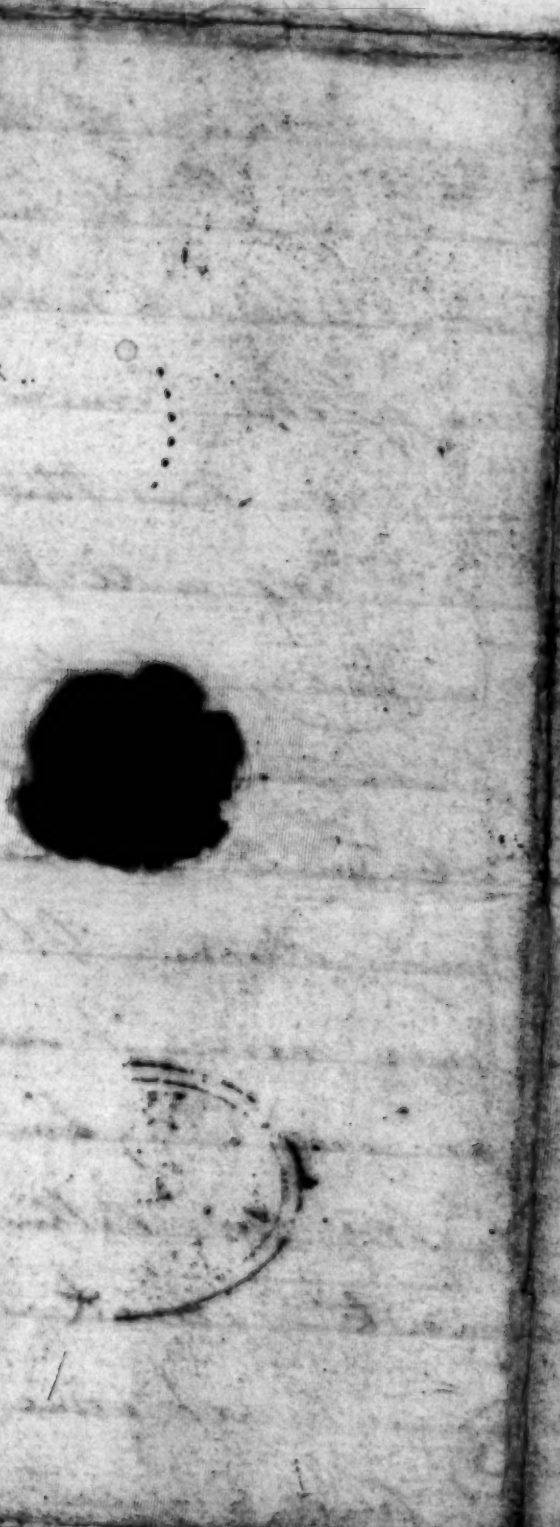
and tell Rem how I long to return to dear old England — my friend Mr Corrie has returned to Florence for the summer Mr Brist is there — So good bye my dear dear Maria — mind and write me another sweet long letter as the last



Miss Maria Jewsbury
Hotel
Grande Bretagne
Florence
Toscane
Italie
Angleterre
London.

you talk about buying your letters — why I think them worth the despatch of bad spelling and Grammar — the finest letters in the world — I would not destroy one of them on any account give my dearest love to my Father and tell him nothing but my duty shall prevent me from him after tomorrow — my dear Mother may a better wife she will take care of me

Let my fate be what it will, be assured, all of you, from my kind Father down to my little Brother Charles - that you are ever in my heart - you are a part of my self - that I can consult you in any thing I do - I know all your minds so well - that here, so far away from you I can ask your advice and liking to what I may be going to do - and my fond heart will tell me all that will please or displease you - so you are still my guide - and let me prove I will you will always find me worthy to be one of you - the one of so good a Father - and yet not quite so kind - Now why did you suppose for a moment that I was married? did I not write to you that you are to believe candidly what ever your feelings about it? so that your greatest suspicion is this point that you can name, because you think I am deceiving you - Before I throw away these thoughts and be assured I am not will tell you previously - if it were only for the telling - but I will tell you - that I may be time to have your advice - yet you did not give me so much as I hoped - Well I am still desperately in love with Clarina at the House of my gentle Marian - dearer than, still, since her name is Marian and I love my drawings down there - and we have music and reading and most delightful chit-chat - Pity you could have me to dine there every day - for almost every day I write or call - but I must lose my independence - their carriage is going this moment - I said I was writing to my sister - afterwards In the Summer we are all going to keep house together at Albano - a beautiful town 15 miles from Rome - the Mother and 2 daughters - They seem to be very much attached to me - get my Love, for their fond hearts - I don't know if they were dear as you my love to me - I think

they must be.— but be it as it may— for you did not take me your serious thoughts about it— Their company is a great acquisition to me they are most accomplished Girls and very lady-like— I think you dont like this love affair of mine, not one of you— yet you have all engaged to talk me so— and why not— I owe you or them no ill will but am entitled to your most devout— This Lady is independent of the use of large fortune— & accomplished and amiable as you think your brother Joseph would like for a wife.— To finish about it— if you all agree to say no— there's an end to the affair— & we never write about it— by the next post for it is a late affair—

I intend this Summer to paint a Vantage— in the direction of the country— Which will be very interesting in England— I purpose to devote the greatest part of the Summer to the study of Landscape painting for the back grounds of my pictures— when I write home something nice for my Fathers gallery— I have completed the picture of Ferdinand & Miranda— and before I go into the country paint the "Mother & Child" which I described in a former letter.— I have made quite a progress in my painting Next since the receipt of your Letter I began a small picture of a Gentleman on Horseback taking farewell of his brother— with a Dog— all Portraits.— which I did in 4 Days— I am to receive 20 Guineas for it.—

Did you say Mr Walter the Attorney was dead? I can't recollect which was Mary— but I had a great respect for him of the two I hope it was the him— tell me about it— be sure— and tell me the news you can— tell me every particular about the exhibition next year— and remember me to all that kind enquirers